

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A ferroelectric capacitor comprising:

a bottom electrode which has ~~a plate portion and a projecting portion, wherein the projecting portion is arranged on a central area of the plate portion~~ a first region and a second region, wherein the first region has a first thickness and the second region has a second thickness greater than the first thickness, and wherein the second region is arranged at a central area of the bottom electrode and the first region is arranged at a peripheral area of the bottom electrode;

a dielectric layer formed on ~~a peripheral area~~ the first region of the bottom electrode;

a ferroelectric layer formed on the dielectric layer and on the ~~projection portion~~ second region of the bottom electrode; and

a top electrode formed on the ferroelectric layer,

wherein the dielectric layer is sandwiched between the first region of the bottom electrode and the ferroelectric layer, and

wherein a side surface of the first region of the bottom electrode, a side surface of the dielectric layer, a side surface of the ferroelectric layer and a side surface of the

top electrode are aligned.

Claim 2 (Original): The ferroelectric capacitor of claim 1, wherein the ferroelectric layer includes a damaged area which is formed on the dielectric layer.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ferroelectric capacitor of claim 1, wherein the bottom electrode comprises the ~~plate-portion~~ first region and the ~~projecting-portion~~ second region as a single unitary electrode.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ferroelectric capacitor of claim 1, wherein a top surface of the dielectric layer is substantially coplanar and aligned with ~~aligned~~ a top surface of the ~~projecting-portion~~ second region.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Original): The ferroelectric capacitor of claim 1, wherein the bottom electrode and the top electrode are made of an oxidation resistance metal or a conductive metal oxide.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The ferroelectric capacitor of claim 8 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the upper layer of the second region ~~plate-portion~~ of the bottom electrode is made of a

material different than [[and]] the first region and the lower layer of the second region
~~projection portion of the bottom electrode are made of different material.~~

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The ferroelectric capacitor of claim 1 ~~[[7]]~~, wherein the
~~plate portion~~ second region of the bottom electrode includes a lower layer and an upper
layer.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The ferroelectric capacitor of claim 7 ~~[[8]]~~, wherein the
~~projection portion~~ upper layer of the second region of the bottom electrode is made of
platinum.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A ferroelectric capacitor comprising:

a bottom electrode having a step area;

a top electrode;

a ferroelectric layer formed between the bottom electrode and the top electrode;

and

a dielectric spacer formed between the bottom electrode and the top electrode,

wherein a distance between the bottom electrode and the top electrode at the
step area is greater than a distance between the bottom electrode and the top electrode
at a central area of the ferroelectric capacitor, and

wherein the dielectric spacer decreases an electric field strength at ~~[[a]]~~ the step

~~peripheral area of the capacitor~~ bottom electrode.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The ferroelectric capacitor of claim 10, wherein the bottom electrode includes a projecting portion arranged at a central area of the bottom electrode, and wherein the dielectric spacer is arranged around the projecting portion on the step area.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Original): The ferroelectric capacitor of claim 10, wherein a side surface of the bottom electrode, a side surface of the ferroelectric layer, a side surface of the dielectric spacer and a side surface of the top electrode are aligned.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A ferroelectric capacitor comprising:

a first electrode which has a plate portion and a projecting portion, wherein the projecting portion is arranged on a central area of the plate portion;

a spacer layer formed on a peripheral area of the first electrode and arranged around the projecting portion of the first electrode;

a ferroelectric layer formed on the ~~dielectric~~ spacer layer and on the projecting portion; and

a second electrode formed on the ferroelectric layer,

wherein a side surface of the plate portion of the first electrode, a side surface of the ferroelectric layer and a side surface of the second electrode are aligned.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A semiconductor device comprising:

a semiconductor substrate;

a switching transistor formed on the semiconductor substrate, the switching transistor having a source region, a drain region and a gate electrode;

an insulating layer formed on the semiconductor substrate and the switching transistor;

a ferroelectric capacitor formed on a top surface of the insulating layer, the ferroelectric capacitor including

a bottom electrode formed on the insulating layer, the bottom electrode having a plate portion and a projecting portion, wherein the projecting portion is arranged on a central area of the plate portion has a first region which has a first thickness and a second region which has a second thickness greater than the first thickness, wherein the second region is arranged at a central area of the bottom electrode and the first region is arranged at a peripheral area of the bottom electrode,

a dielectric layer formed on the ~~peripheral area~~ first region of the bottom

electrode,

a ferroelectric layer formed on the dielectric layer and on the ~~protecting~~
~~portion~~ second region, and

a top electrode formed on the ferroelectric layer,

wherein the dielectric layer is sandwiched between the first region of
the bottom electrode and the ferroelectric layer, and

wherein a side surface of the first region of the bottom electrode, a side
surface of the dielectric layer, a side surface of the ferroelectric layer and a side
surface of the top electrode are aligned; and

a plug electrode which is embedded in the insulating layer, wherein the plug
electrode connects the source region of the switching transistor to the bottom electrode
of the ferroelectric capacitor.

Claim 17 (Original): The semiconductor device of claim 16, wherein the top surface of
the insulating layer is formed substantially flat.

Claim 18 (Original): The semiconductor device of claim 16, wherein the ferroelectric
capacitor is located over the source region of the switching transistor.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A semiconductor device comprising:

a semiconductor substrate;

a switching transistor formed on the semiconductor substrate, the switching transistor having a source region, a drain region and a gate electrode;

an insulating layer formed on the semiconductor substrate and the switching transistor;

a ferroelectric capacitor formed on a top surface of the insulating layer, the ferroelectric capacitor including

a bottom electrode formed on the insulating layer, the bottom electrode has a ~~plate portion and a projecting portion, wherein the projecting portion is arranged on the central area of the plate portion~~ first region which has a first thickness and a second region which has a second thickness greater than the first thickness, wherein the second region is arranged at a central area of the bottom electrode and the first region is arranged at a peripheral area of the bottom electrode,

a dielectric layer formed on a ~~peripheral area~~ the first region of the bottom electrode,

a ferroelectric layer formed on the dielectric layer and on the ~~projecting portion~~ second region, and

a top electrode formed on the ferroelectric layer,
wherein the dielectric layer is sandwiched between the first region of the bottom electrode and the ferroelectric layer, and

wherein a side surface of the first region of the bottom electrode, a side

surface of the dielectric layer, a side surface of the ferroelectric layer and a side surface of the top electrode are aligned; and

a wiring which connects the source region of the switching transistor to the top electrode of the ferroelectric capacitor.

Claim 20 (Original): The semiconductor device of claim 19, wherein the wiring includes a plug portion which extends from the source region of the switching transistor to the top surface of the insulating layer and a wiring portion which connects a top of the plug to the top electrode of the ferroelectric capacitor.